GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2417
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
Agricultural Trade with Foreign Countries
Gopal Dr. K.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is presently targeting markets in Australia, South Africa and South Korea for mangoes and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government is also looking at the United States, Japan and Vietnam for the export of grapes, while China for rice, fruits and vegetables and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the country''s agri-exports fell to Rs. 95,744 crore during April-February of 2015-16 fiscal from Rs. 1,20,316 crore in the year ago period; and
(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) Yes, madam. Some varieties of mangoes from northern India are already being exported to Australia. In order to boost export of other varieties, the matter was pursued with the concerned Australian authorities to consider different varieties and other mitigation measures of Hot Water Treatment and Irradiation. In this regard, a delegation visited India in the month of June 2016 to verify and certify three irradiation facilities for export of irradiated mangoes from the western and southern parts of India. Approval for certification of these facilities is under process.

In case of South Africa, the market access efforts are continuing. The National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, has sent the required information to the South African Authorities and the response from them is awaited. The matter is being pursued through the Indian High Commission in South Africa to receive the final import requirement.

In case of South Korea, market access has been gained on 7th June, 2016. South Korean Quarantine Inspector has arrived in India on 11th July, 2016 for on-site pre-clearance programme at VHT facility at Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, for export of mangoes to South Korea.

(b) Yes, madam. For export of grapes, the finalization of import risk analysis is awaited from the USA. In case of Japan and Vietnam, the import risk analysis with post-harvest mitigation measures is yet to be finalized by them. The matter is being pursued through the Indian Embassies in the respective countries.

As for China, India has already submitted priority list for market access of 5 fruits and vegetables to AQSIQ, China, as per their request for providing the priority list. Out of 5 products submitted in the priority list, the finalization of protocol for okra is in the final stage and is pending with AQSIQ, China.

(c) India's export of Agricultural & Allied Products, during the period April 2015 − February 2016, was Rs.1,43,802.55 crore as compared to Rs.1,68,918.94 crore over the same period in the previous financial year.

(d) The primary reasons for decline are: low commodity prices in the international market; shrinking of global demand; high domestic prices, as compared to the international prices, which has made our exports uncompetitive; unfavourable currency rate movements as compared to the competing countries etc.

Encouraging exports of agricultural products is a continuous process. The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organisation under the Department of Commerce, provides financial assistance to the exporters through various components of its Plan Scheme viz. Infrastructure Development, Market Promotion, Quality Development and Transport Assistance. Besides these measures, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has put in place various schemes namely Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Assistance Initiative (MAI) and Merchandise Export Incentive Scheme (MEIS) etc. to provide assistance to encourage exports.

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